

## Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 NIC-01 IO-12 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 T-03 OMB-01 AF-10 RSR-01

EB-11 COME-00 STR-08 AGR-20 TRSE-00 ACDA-19 GAC-01

SAJ-01 MBFR-03 /204 W

----- 106958

R 201100 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9261

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 699

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, CE, YO, EG

SUBJ: VISIT OF YUGOSLAV PREMIER

1. YUGOSLAV PM BIJEDIC, ACCOMPANIED BY P. SERBANOVIC ( CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT OF ASIA AND AUSTRALIA IN YUGOSLAVIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND FORMER AMB TO CEYLON), EMIL LUDVIGER ( MEMBER OF FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL), JAKSA PETRIC ( DEPFORN SEC), NISIM KONFINO ( CHIEF OF CABINET) AND OTHER OFFICIALS COMPLETED FOUR- DAY VISIT TO SRI LANKA TUESDAY 13 MARCH. VISIT INCLUDED COLOMBO, KANDY AND TOURIST AND POWER PROJECT SITES, AND WAS GIVEN MODES PRESS COVERAGE EXCEPT FOR WIDE PUBLICATION OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND TRANSCRIPT OF PREMIER BIJEDIC' S RADIO  
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ADDRESS.

2. LENGTHY JOINT COMMUNIQUE POINTED TO " IDENTITY OR CLOSE-NESS" ON ISSUES DISCUSSED. IT NOTED WITH SATISFACTION CURRENT TREND TOWARDS RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS, SUPPORTED " UPHOLDING LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF ALL ARAB PEOPLES," DEMANDED ISRAEL' S WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND REFERRED TO FORTHCOMING FOURTH SUMMIT OF NON- ALIGNED NATIONS AS CONSISTITUTING " IMPORTANT POLITICAL EVEN OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE" IN ACHIEVING AIMS OF NON- ALIGNED COUNTRIES AND PROMOTING WORLD PEACE.

3. PRIOR TO ARRIVAL PRESS SPECULATION SUGGESTED PRINCIPAL REASON FOR YUGOSLAV VISIT HERE WAS TO SOUND OUT GSL ON ZONE OF PEACE FOR MEDITERRANEAN SIMILIAR TO INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE. FINAL COMMUNIQUE, HOWEVER, REFERRED ONLY TO INDIAN OCEAN PROPOSAL ( WHICH BIJEDIC ENDORSED) AND DECLARED " RELAXATION OF TENSIONS SHOULD ENCOMPASS ALL REGIONS EQUALLY."

4. ECONOMIC QUESTIONS PROMINENT. YUGOSLAVIA EXPRESSED INTEREST IN BUILDING SIZEABLE FRUIT- ORIENTED CANNING FACTORIES, IN USE OF YUGOSLAV TRAWLERS FOR SRI LANKA FISHING INDUSTRY, AND IN PROVIDING OTHER TYPES SHIPS AND TANKERS. COMMUNIQUE, HOWEVER, CONTAINED NO SPECIFIC PROJECTS, CONTENTING ITSELF WITH NOTING GROWING GSL- YUGOSLAV BILATERAL TRADE AND AGREEING TO PREPARE PROGRAM OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION ( NO DETAILS GIVEN). IN RADIO SPEECH BIJEDIC REFERRED TO YUGOSLAV PARTICPATION IN MAHAWELI GANGA IRRIGATION PROJECT, INCREASING COMMODITY EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS, ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT VENTURES AND SCIENFITIC, TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL COOPERATION. NO SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OUTLINED.

4. COMMENT: IN ABSENCE OF AREAS OF CONTROVERSY AND OF LARGE-SCALE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, DISCUSSIONS ATTRACTED MINIMUM PUBLIC ATTENTION. ONLY LARGE FEATURE ARTICLE RELATED TO VISIT DECLARED " NOT EVEN PM BIJEDIC' S OPTIMISM CAN HIDE THE FACT THAT YUGOSLAVIA' S ECONOMY IS IN DIRE TROUBLE." ( SUN, MARCH 13).

5. YUGOSLAV EMBASSY TELLS US IT IS GREATLY IMPRESSED WITH GSL' S HOSPITALITY EFFORT, AFFIRMS NO AREA OF CONTROVERSY EXISTED AND DESCRIBED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AS " EXCELLENT".  
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WE HAVE REPORT THAT ONE OF BIJEDIC' S PRIMARY OBJECTIVES IN

VISIT WAS TO SOOTHE SRI LANKA' S HURT FEELINGS RESULTING FROM GEORGETOWN SNUB OF GSL BID TO HOST NON- ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND TO EXPLAIN YUGOSLAVIA' S FAILURE TO SUPPORT. YUGOSLAVS APPARENTLY FEARED MRS. B MIGHT BE SO PIQUED AS TO REFUSE TO HEAD SRI LANKA DELEGATION TO ALGIERS AND WANTED TO ASSURE HER ATTENDANCE. BIJEDIC ACHIEVED HIS GOAL, ACCORDING TO REPORT, UTILIZING FLATTERY IN ASSERTING MEDITERRANEAN PEACE ZONE PROPOSAL WAS DIRECTLY INSPIRED BY MRS. B' S INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE INITIATIVE.

6. IN CONVERSATION WITH US, HOWEVER, YUGOSLAV EMBASSY HAS DENIED THAT MEDITERRANEAN PEACE ZONE WAS DISCUSSED AS SUCH, EXPLAINING THAT " MEDITERRANEAN SECURITY" WAS TOUCHED UPON ONLY IN VERY GENERAL TERMS. YUGOSLAVS HAVE ALSO SOUGHT TO DISPEL IDEA THAT YUGOSLAVIA CONTEMPLATED EARLY INITIATIVE REGARDING MEDITERRANEAN PEACE ZONE EITHER AT NON- ALIGNED CONFERENCE ( THOUGH ALGERIANS MIGHT, THEY ADD OR AT UNGA THIS FALL) YUGOSLAVIA WOULD MERELY CONTINUE STRESS NEED TO INCLUDE MEDITERRANEAN IN ANY DISCUSSION OF EUROPEAN SECURITY AT HELSINKI CSCE MEETINGS. DESPITE THESE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY STATEMENTS, WE SUSPECT MEDITERRANEAN PEACE ZONE WAS IN FACT DISCUSSED WITH GSL, ALTHOUGH PROBABLY ONLY PRELIMINARY FASHION. VAN HOLLEN

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**To:** NEA  
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BELGRADE  
CANBERRA  
DACCA  
KABUL  
MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE

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